

Mario C. Diaz
Director of Aviation
Houston Airport System

Mario C. Diaz is Director of the City of Houston Department of Aviation. He is responsible for the overall management of the Houston Airport System's three aviation facilities: George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH), William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) and Ellington Airport (EFD) – and its more than 1,500 employees.

Prior to his appointment in 2010, Mr. Diaz was the deputy general manager for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport since January 1999. He was responsible for ensuring that the daily operational activities of the world's busiest airport, including operations, business, finance and capital development.

He has been one of the industry's leading authorities in aviation technology as well as the study of future developments in commercial aviation.

Prior to 1999, Diaz was the manager of business, properties and commercial development for New Jersey Airports, a post he held for four years. In this role, he managed the division responsible for all business and lease negotiations at Newark International Airport as well as the day-to-day oversight management of Teterboro Airport, one of the nation's premier general aviation airports, and a major reliever airport for Newark International.

His 17-year career with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey began in 1981 and included key management positions in leasing, finance, marketing, operations and properties. During this period, Diaz also served 18 months as the assistant director of the redevelopment program at John F. Kennedy Airport.

A native of Barranquitas, Puerto Rico, and a licensed private pilot with instrument certification, Diaz earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey. He also earned a Master of Business Administration in finance from Rutgers Graduate School of Business Administration in New Jersey.